

THE SENATE

(Continued From Second Page.)

duced by Senator Harman under which the Senate will from now on be debarred from considering any bill against which six or more objections are registered. Senator Mapp sought to amend it by increasing the objections to ten, and making the rule effective beginning to-day but the amendments were voted down.

The adoption of this resolution practically seals the fate of all the controversial bills now on the calendar. In this category fall the antismuggling bill and the antismuggling bill, upon the merits of which the Senate is sharply divided. Neither of these measures can now come to vote except by a suspension of the rules, which requires twenty-seven votes.

Shortly before adjournment at 2 o'clock the Senate suspended the rules and took up one of the bills on the calendar the bill regulating the sale of farm produce on commission and providing for the registration and bonding of commission merchants. The bill met with objections from Senators Cannon, Holt, West and a number of others, who claimed that it placed undue hardships upon the commission merchants of the State. The new six-object rule was invoked, but Senator Gravatt, who guided the bill through the Senate, succeeded in securing a suspension of the rule. The bill was under consideration when the chair was vacated until the afternoon session.

Senate Afternoon Session.
The Senate began its afternoon session with a thirty-minute consideration of the general appropriation bill as reported by the conference committee, and at the end of that time passed the amended bill by a unanimous vote. The bill carries appropriations for the two ensuing years, totaling \$14,153,401.25. Senator Echols, chairman of the Finance Committee, said that the special appropriations carried by various independent bills passed by the present Legislature will aggregate approximately \$200,000.

The next business in order was the bill regulating the conduct of the commission business. Senator Gravatt had after considerable difficulty at the morning session secured a suspension of the rules to take the bill up out of its regular order on the calendar and bring it up for passage. The bill was called at 4:59 o'clock, and Senator Cannon, who had opposed the bill at the morning session, at once took the floor against it. With short pauses for questions, he spoke continuously until 6 o'clock, when the Senate took recess until the evening session.

Filibuster Against Bill.
Senator Cannon made no effort to disguise the filibuster. At his request the Senate clerk was instructed to read the bill at length—a proceeding that consumed fifteen minutes. He moved next that the bill be read section by section for the purposes of amendment. The motion was rejected and Senator Cannon took the floor for the purpose of making what proved to be the longest Senate speech of the present session. He sent to the desk a sheet of amendments, the first five of which provided respectively for the striking from the bill of the first five sections.

The Senate entered into the spirit of the filibuster, the members grouping themselves in close formation about the speaker, and laughing at his digressions. Senator Cannon devoted most of his long speech to a criticism of the first section of the bill, which defines a commission merchant as any person, firm or corporation holding a certificate of registration provided by the act, authorizing him to receive and offer for sale on commission any kind of farm produce except where such farm produce is sold for consumption, and not for resale.

The term farm produce, according to section 1, shall include agricultural, horticultural, and other products of the soil, live stock, meats and meat products, poultry, eggs, dairy products, nuts and honey, but shall not include timber products, horticultural products, tea or coffee.

Invokes Constitution.
Senator Cannon gave it as his opinion that there was no authority in the Constitution for the arbitrary separation of farm products provided in the section, and held that the law in order to stand the test of the courts must apply without distinction to everything raised on the farm.

The Senator from Richmond entered vigorous objection to the section which requires the commission merchant to secure from the Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration a certificate permitting him to "earn his living." The requirement, he objected, was predicated on the assumption that commission dealers were dishonest—an implication which, he said, he desired to deny as a slander on the men who engage in this business.

While a serious expression in his speech now and then, Senator Cannon was frankly concerned with killing time. He read copiously from the Constitution on the elemental rights of every man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and drew the attention of the Senate to the inconsistency of the bill in declaring nuts and honey legitimate farm products and at the same time withholding from that category tea and coffee.

Holt Troubled About Cider.

His repeated references to nuts and honey and tea and coffee drew the Senate into a panic of laughter. Senator Holt inquired formally if the inhibition applied to apple cider, and another Senator interrupted to ask if the law would in any way affect the sale of persimmons by commission. To these and other irrelevant questions Senator Cannon replied at length with citations from the bill and a running commentary on the construction that might be placed on the various sections.

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In the first stages of Senator Cannon's speech attempted with some seriousness to refute or qualify assertions which appeared to them to misstate the progress of the bill, but as the farce progressed they joined in the comedy and sat by to watch it out.

Several members ceased to secure the floor for the purpose of making motions to take up other bills, but Senator Cannon uniformly declined to yield for anything but a question. He was still addressing himself to the first section of the bill when the chair at 6 o'clock declared a recess until the evening session.

Under the one-object rule, the commission merchant bill was passed by at the night session. It will be again at the head of the calendar this morning as unfinished business.

Bills Passed by Senate

The Senate at its night session passed the following House bills:

To amend and require the Board of Supervisors of Foxham County, with the approval of a majority of the qualified voters, to levy a special road tax to be used for permanent road improvements in that county.

To authorize and empower the several magisterial districts of King William County to levy a license tax on all vehicles used

or operated in the said district for the purpose of raising revenue for the construction, improvement and maintenance of the public highways and bridges of said districts.

To amend and re-enact section 9 of chapter 10 of section 220 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, 1902-3, relating to turnpike companies.

Requiring the sources of poach to be stated upon the tags on commercial fertilizers.

Providing for the protection of turnpike roads that have been treated with bitumen or other artificial binder from injury by traction engines, tractors or motor trucks, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof.

To amend and re-enact section 73 of the Code, as heretofore amended, in relation to State depositories.

To amend an act approved March 17, 1910, providing for the payment of a license tax for the exhibition of any moving-picture machine when the price of admission to such exhibitions does not exceed the sum of 10 cents.

Enlarging the powers and duties of the State Accountant so as to authorize counties and cities to have the accounts and vouchers for the examination of the accounts of county and city officers at the expense of counties and cities.

To compensate W. W. Cox and C. P. Cooke, attorneys at law, for services rendered as appointees of the Circuit Court of Carroll County in the defense of Sidney Allen and Wesley Edwards.

To repeal an act approved January 29, 1912, providing for the reimbursement of the county of Wayne to reimburse the county for amount paid the judge sent by the governor to reside in the town of the cases growing out of the Hillsville murders.

To provide in cities containing 10,000 inhabitants and less than 40,000 inhabitants for the election of a special justice of the peace to be known as the Civil and Police Justice, and to prescribe his duties.

To amend the act approved March 14, 1912, providing for the working of certain long-term convicts by the Superintendent of the Penitentiary and for the manufacture of ground limestone and oyster shells.

To provide for and authorize the purchase of a suitable lot of land in close proximity to the Capitol, in the city of Richmond, and to create a State Building Commission to act for the State and to make an appropriation therefor.

Amending the public squares in the city of Winchester a part of the several magisterial districts of the County of Frederick for the trial of civil and criminal cases in the justice of the peace of the County of Frederick.

To amend the charter of the town of Alexandria.

To amend sections 29 and 35 of the Code in relation to the duties of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

To amend section 1 of an act approved March 12, 1903, relating to official receipts for fines.

Providing for an election upon the question of a dispensary in the town of Gretna, Pittsylvania County.

Defining the territorial jurisdiction of the Hustings Court of the city of Richmond, Part I, as a court of appeals.

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Defining the territorial jurisdiction of the Chancery Court of the city of Richmond as a court of probate and registry.

To provide a new charter for the town of Pearlburg, and to repeal all acts in conflict thereof.

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